GOVERNMENT OF TRAVANCORE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

1114 M. E.

~~1938~~
1938-39

1938-39
1939-40
1941.
1942-43
1943-44
1944-45

Bound together
12.7.56

TRIVANDRUM:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1940

Proceeding sof the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

Read:—

The Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1114 M. E. (1938-39 A. D.) forwarded by the Officer in charge of the institution with his letter, dated the 15th January 1940.

ORDER D. DIS. NO. 715 OF 40 EDN., DATED TRIVANDRUM, 6TH JUNE 1940.

RECORDED.

2. The number of visitors to the Museum during the year under report was 3,30,998 as against 4,65,365 The Museum was honoured by a visit from Their Highnesses the Maharaja and Maharani of Bikaner.

3. During the year, the Museum was enriched by a number of important additions by way of loans and permanent acquisitions. These include articles of ivory, kuftgari, silver and other art-crafts, besides plaster facsimiles of eight stone images belonging to the 18th Century A. D. such as Kanakabhisheka Krishna, Siva and Parvathi, Subramonya etc, carved on the granite pillars of the Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple. A new section of plaster casts has been started to represent the best specimens of sculptures and carvings typical of the ancient temples of the State. Other notable additions include a bronze image of Nataraja of exquisite workmanship, an image of a Goddess kindly loaned to the Museum for exhibition by Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, an old sword and fragments of an urn unearthed from the Nanthancode Palace, Trivandrum, and a portrait of the late Sir T. Madhava Rao, a former Dewan of Travancore. Suitable additions were also made to the collections in the Museum Annexe where the objects of far eastern arts and crafts are housed.

(By order)

M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To the Officer in charge of Museums.
,, Dr. J. H. Cousins, Art Adviser to Government.
,, the Superintendent, Government Press.
,, the Central Printing Office.
,, the Legislative Section.
,, the Press Room.
,, the Accountant-General.

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUMS

FOR THE YEAR 1114 M. E.

General.

Shortly before the close of the year under report, Dr. J. H. Cousins was appointed Art Adviser to Government, to supervise Government Museums and Picture Galleries; and Mr. R. V. Poduval was appointed Officer in Charge of the Museum, from July 1, 1939.

Visitors.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the year was 3,30,998. This number, though large, is under that of the previous year, 465,365. The year covered a period of uncertainty which happily appears to have passed, as the figures for the present year, if maintained, promise an increase which may possibly reach the figure of the previous year. The total number of women visitors on Wednesdays, the special day set apart for them, was 13,223. Among the distinguished visitors special mention may be made of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner who deeply appreciated the remarkable collection of heads and horns in the mammal gallery. Her Highness the Maharani Sahiba and other members of the Royal party from Bikaner also visited the institution. There were, in addition, the usual visits of School Students and Boy Scouts from different parts of the State and from outside.

Rearrangement.

Many of the exhibits in the Museum were overhauled and rearranged in connection with the visit of Their Excellencies the Crown Representative and Lady Linlithgow. All the show-cases were scraped and varnished. The floor space and background of the cases in the central hall were covered over with red cloth with a view to exhibit in better perspective the metal-ware and other specimens of craftsmanship indigenous to Travancore. Among other changes, special mention may be made of the model of the Nair House and its component out-houses with their massive show-case which had remained in the central hall for a number of years. This was removed to the eastern hall in the mammal gallery, its space being allotted to the Mantapam or temple porch where a plaster cast of Anantasayana has been exhibited. The

G. P. T. 1904. 305. 30-10-1115

panel of Gajalakshmi and other wooden images from the Kulathupuzha temple had been resting on the floor against the wall. It was deemed advisable to get them raised a few feet both for the safety of the carving and for their better view. Teak-wood frames of suitable dimensions were therefore provided for them in consultation with the Superintendent of the P. W. D. Workshops.

Acquisitions.

A number of important additions were made to the collections in the Museum by way of loans and permanent acquisitions. Of the former, forty-eight articles of ivory, kuftgari, silver and other artcrafts, all of them exhibited in a separate show-case and two octagonal tables richly carved and inlaid with ivory, loaned to the Museum for the duration of the year by the Superintendent of the School of Arts, Trivandrum, deserve special mention.

Plaster facsimiles of eight stone images belonging to the 18th century A. D., such as Kanakabhisheka Krishna, Siva and Parvathi, Subramanya etc., carved on the granite pillars of the Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple were made in the year and suitably exhibited in the central hall. Steps were also taken for the immediate addition to this section by replicas of the sculptured images of Cheraman Perumal, Kulasekhara Alwar and Sundaramurti from the Keralapuram Temple.

Towards the close of the year, the artist draftsman of the Museum was deputed to prepare a plaster cast of the sculptured panels of dancing figures in the Trivikramangalam Temple which is situated in a picturesque locality on the banks of the Karamana River, three miles east of Trivandrum. The casts of these two panels were completed by the end of the year, and have since been suitably set up. A new section of plaster casts has thus been started to represent the best specimens of sculptures and carvings typical of the ancient temples of the State.

Other notable additions to the Museum during the year were :—

(i) A bronze image of Dancing Siva of exquisite workmanship obtained by purchase through Gazdar Bros., Jewellery and Oriental Art Gallery, Bombay.

(ii) An image of a Goddess kindly loaned to the Museum for exhibition by Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

(iii) An old sword and fragments of an urn unearthed from the Nanthencode Palace, Trivandrum, obtained from the Dewan.

(iv) An admirable portrait of the late Sir T. Madhava Rao, a former Dewan of Travancore, done in low relief in ivory and mounted on a carved ebony base, valuable to the Museum as a piece of Travancore craftsmanship and a historical relic, and two small figures of men in ivory, presented to the Museum by Srimathi Hamsa Bai, grand daughter of the late Sir T. Madhava Rao.

(v) Two gold coins (fanams) of Travancore of the 18th and 19th centuries and two silver coins, one a Maratha Rupee of the Panhala Mint type and the other of the time of Aurangazeb, received gratis from the Honorary Secretary, Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

(vi) Two gold ornaments of artistic and archaeological interest, taken as ownerless by the Police Department and sent to the Museum by the Trivandrum District Magistrate.

(vii) A collection of bronzes consisting of images, lamps and other domestic utensils acquired by purchase.

(viii) Two bison heads and four ibex heads presented by Mrs. Richardson of Peermade.

(ix) A black buck skin obtained from the Forest Department.

Disposals.

A Museum of antiquities was started under the auspices of the Department of Archaeology at Padmanabhapuram and Government ordered that all specimens of historical and archaeological interest preserved in the Government Museum be transferred there. Accordingly, in addition to the stone sculptures and inscriptions already handed over to the Department of Archaeology during the last year, ancient tools and weapons, copper plates, coins, archaeological charts and maps were removed from the Museum during the current year.

The rifles, machine guns and helmets,– trophies of the last Great War– presented to the Museum and exhibited on the balconies of the institution were made over to the Commandant of the State Forces as directed by Government.

Far Eastern Arts and Crafts.

The Museum of Far Eastern Arts and Crafts, housed in what is known as the Museum Annexe, the former Library Hall, continued to attract visitors. A set of dance masks from Ceylon, a few more paintings by peasants and fisherfolk of Bali and photographs illustrative of Balinese dance and religious ceremonies were added to this section.

Natural History.

The idea of replacing those stuffed specimens which have lost their freshness and colour due to natural causes, and referred to in previous reports could not yet be accomplished for want of funds. A few additions were made in the form of some mammal heads, arthropods and insects. The Museum staff however were arduous in their attention throughout the year to the preservation of the existing collection and the prevention, as far as possible, from further deterioration of those mammal specimens which have not been for some years in good condition.

The skeletal parts of the dolphin, a cast of which was made during the previous year, were articulated to be set up along with the cast. Skeleton of the Fin whale obtained from Pulluvila beach was carefully cleaned, bleached and stored away for want of space in the exhibition galleries. It is however available for examination and study to all those interested in biological investigations.

The classified series of about 200 specimens of fishes preserved in spirits were examined as to their condition of preservation and necessary modifications were made to the preservatives. The herbal and the reserve collection of bird skins received curative treatment.

The biological materials available for study were made use of by students of the University. Help was also given in the preparation of the chapters on local fauna and flora for the Travancore State Manual.

Library.

The Museum Libray was throughout the year housed on the verandahs of the Sri Chitralayam since the room at the eastern end of the Museum Annexe continued to be used as the Office of the Government Gardens.

All the series of periodical publications received free from the United States National Museums and the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, were catalogued and sent to the Government Press for being bound. A bibliography of ornithological literature available in the Museum Library is in course of preparation.

Educational Activities.

The customary educational service of the institution was continued throughout the year. School parties were conducted round, and many hundreds of enquiries from visitors were responded to by the staff. The most important of the Museum activities in the dissemination of knowledge was the attempt made during the year to get the School teachers in the State

more museum minded, that is, more interested and enlightened as to the educational facilities afforded by the collections in the institution. Special invitations and admission cards were sent to the student-teachers and staff of the Training College to visit the Museum in batches on Saturdays. Every Saturday forenoon during the summer months prior to the midsummer holidays was set apart for this work and the Officer in charge and the Curators took them round explaining to them the significance of various exhibits.

Conclusion.

For over three quarters of a century the Government Museum, Trivandrum, has played a large part in the cultural life of the people. Originally designed as a general Museum of art-crafts, natural history and anthropology, the increase in its exhibits has outgrown its accommodation. This, and the approaching development of Zoological study in the University of Travancore, has caused Government to decide, shortly after the period covered by this report, to concentrate on art-crafts, principally of Travancore, but with examples from elsewhere in India and Asia. Plans for this transformation are now being worked up.

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge.

APPENDIX I.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1114.

		Rs.	Ch.	C.
Receipts	...	53	0	0
Expenditure				
Salaries	...	155	0	0
Establishment	...	3,267	0	0
Allowances	...	88	0	0
Contingencies	...	2,330	0	0
Total	..	5,840	0	0

APPENDIX II.

List of Holidays for the Museum during the year 1114 M. E.

1. All Mondays.
2. Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja.
3. Birthday of His Majesty the King Emperor.
4. New Year day.
5. Empire day.
6. Temple Entry Proclamation day.
7. Thiru Onam day.

APPENDIX III.

Additions and Disposals during 1114 M. E.

1. Additions.	*How obtained.*
1. Red uniforms of the Travancore State Forces—2 pairs.	Presented by the Commandant of the State Forces.
2. Bison heads 2, Ibex heads 4.	Presented by Mrs. Richardson, Peermade.
3. Bronze plates—1.	Purchased.
4. Ivory statue of Sir T. Madhava Rao.	Presented by Sry. Hamsa Bai.
5. Miniature ivory models of men 2	Do.
6. Skin of Black buck.	From the Forest Department.
7. A collection of artcrafts in ivory, silver and ebony.	On loan from the School of Arts.
8. Carved round tables—2.	Do.
9. Plaster casts of sculptures from the Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple—8.	Purchased from the School of Arts.
10. Plaster cast of an image of Ananthasayanam	Do.
11. Bronze image of Dancing Siva.	Purchased.
12. Gold waist ring.	From the District Magistrate, Trivandrum.
13. A collection of 9 bronze articles consisting of lamps, images, jewel box and temple flag.	Purchased.
14. Silver coin of the time of Aurangazeb.	Presented by the Hon. Secretary, Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.
15. Gold fanams (Travancore)—2.	Do.
16. Maratha rupee (silver).	Do.
17. Prawn.	Purchased.
18. Old sword and bit of an earthern pot showing chain patterned rim.	Presented by the Dewan.
2. Disposals.	
1. Copper plates.	Transferred to the Padmanabhapuram Museum.
2. Ancient tools and weapons.	Do.
3. Framed charts showing tables of scripts.	Do.
4. Charts showing vatteluthu scripts in different periods.	Do.
5. Archaeological map of Travancore.	Do.
6. Coins - number 91.	Do.
7. Guns—No. 85.	Transferred to the Office of the Commandant, State Forces.
8. Bayonets—55.	Do.
9. Machine guns—4.	Do.
10. Helmets—8.	Do.

APPENDIX IV.

Additions to the Museum Library during 1114 M. E.

I. Books.

By Purchase.

1. The Science of Life by H. G. Wells.
2. Tools and the Man by Wright W. B.
3. The Identification of Indian Butterflies by W. H. Evans.
4. Popular Hand Book of Indian Birds by Hugh Whistler.
5. Local Museums, Notes on their building and conduct by H. A. Kennedy.
6. Report on the Museums and Art Galleries of the British Isles by S. F. Markham.

II. Periodicals.

By Subscription.

1. Nature - August 1938 to August 1939.
2. Science Do.
3. Current Science Do.
4. Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.
5. The Museums Journal.

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

READ :—

The Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1115 M. E. (A. D. 1939-40) forwarded by the Officer in charge of the institution with his letter No. 535/40, dated 20-11-1940.

Order D. Dis. No. 167 of 41 Edn., dated Trivandrum, 5th February 1941.

RECORDED.

2. The number of visitors to the Museum during the year under report was 3,89,414 against 3,50,998 in the previous year. The members of the Royal family, especially Her Highness Princess Karthika Thirunal with Her Highness's infant son His Highness Prince Avittam Thirunal, visited the institution on a number of occasions. The institution was also visited by Their Highnesses the Maharaj kana and Maharani of Dholpur.

3. During the year under report, besides the routine work of cleaning and re-arranging the collections in the various Departments, the work of organisation and arrangement of the reserve collection in the various sections was carried out with a view to afford better facilities to students and research workers. The Museum was enriched by a number of additions. Particular attention was bestowed on the setting up of the skeleton of a dolphin. The skin and skeleton of the crocodile of the Government Gardens which died, were added to the Museum collection. Notable additions in the Archaeology Section were an old spear-head and a piece of pottery unearthed from a private compound in Nanthencode and another piece of pottery got from underneath a menhir near the Periyar Lake. These were graciously presented by Her Highness the Maharani to the Museum. A beautiful casket of rose-wood, ivory and gold presented to the Dewan by the Syrian Christian community was sent to the Museum for exhibition as an example of the superb craftsmanship of Travancore workmen as also a good

G. P. T. 2014. 305. 11-9-1116.

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specimen of a bronze statuary. Plaster models of Kulasekhara Alwar, Cheraman Perumal and Sundaramurti were prepared and set up on suitable pedestals. An old bronze hanging lamp with an image of Ganapathi in the centre was presented by the Devaswom Department and added on to the collections in the Museum.

(By order)
M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To the Officer in charge of Museums.
,, Dr. J. H. Cousins.
,, the Superintendent of the Government Press.
,, the Central Printing Office.
,, the Legislative Section.
,, the Press Room.
,, the Accountant-General.

Government Museum,
Trivandrum, 11th November 1940.

From

The Officer in charge of Museums,
Trivandrum.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Trivandrum.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Administration Report of the Government Museum, Trivandrum for the year ending the 31st Karkatakam 1115 M. E.

Introductory.

The Trivandrum Museum has just passed one more mile stone in its march of progress maintaining its tradition of efficiency in useful public service. This has been mainly due to the whole hearted co-operation and enthusiasm of the staff, particularly the Curator and the Museum Assistant. Interesting additions were made in the year to the collections of the various departments in the institution, the most important of which have been suitably displayed. Educational facilities were as usual afforded to a large number of students from schools and colleges from within and outside the State, and they were taken round the institution by the Curator and the Museum Assistant whose talks on various branches of museology and exhibits were much appreciated by them. The members of the Royal family and the Dewan took special interest in the activities of the Museum, and enriched it by gracious gifts from time to time. A fine collection of Roerich's paintings was exhibited in the Museum Annexe as a feature of the Birthday celebrations of His Highness the Maharaja. The success and popularity of this exhibition were largely due to the efforts of Dr J. H. Cousins, the Art Adviser to Government.

General.

Dr. J. H. Cousins continued to be the Art Adviser to Government and I as Officer in charge of Museums.

Visitors.

The number of visitors to the Museum in the year was 359,414 as against 330,998 in the previous year showing thereby an increase which is an indication of the growing popularity of the institution. The members of the Royal family, especially Her Highness Princess Karthika Thirunal with Her Highness's infant son His Highness Prince Avittam Thirunal, visited the institution on a number of occasions. The Dewan also was good enough to inspect the Museum three times in the year. Their Highnesses the Maharana and Maharani of Dholpur went through the collections of the institution with great interest during their visit to Travancore in connection with the unveiling of the statue of His Highness the Maharaja. Parties of school children and scouts also visited the Museum during the year as usual.

Building.

Thanks are due to the authorities of the P. W. D. who bestowed great care on the annual maintenance work of the Museum building which is one of the most beautiful in the State. Dr. Kamesam, the Director of Development, was requested to make a detailed examination of the conditions of the large beams, rafters, ornamental brackets and other wood work that form part of the structure, and has reported that they are in perfect condition. The electrification of the building was also carried out during the year. High voltage lamps with special disc shades showing the Travancore coat of arms have been provided. In the Museum Annexe, where art treasures from Java and Bali are exhibited, a partition was put across the archway separating the hall from the bay at the back so as to convert it into a room for housing the Chinese and Japanese paintings which have been transferred from the Sri Chitralayam.

Natural History.

Besides the routine work of cleaning and rearranging the collections in the various departments, particular attention was bestowed on the setting up of the skeleton of a newly acquired dolphin, a model of which was already on display. Further, the work of cleaning, bleaching and rewiring all the skeletal exhibits in the museum was taken up and completed. Another important work which received attention was the organization and arrangement of the reserve collection in the various

sections, with a view to accessibility to students and research workers and better caretaking. The Mammal, Bird, Reptiles, Fish, Insects, Geology and Metalware sections were thus cleaned, rearranged and listed. This was a laborious task, and took several months to finish. Though it was not possible to go out on collection tours, a collection of flowering plants from the neighbourhood of Trivandrum was made and added to the Museum Herbarium. Towards the end of the year, a crocodile (Crocodilus palustris) that belonged to the Zoological Gardens died and was passed on to the Museum. Its skin and skeleton were added to the museum collection. Two small stones were recovered from its stomach. This fact is interesting as crocodiles are supposed to swallow stones to aid the digestion as birds take grains of sand to help theirs. Another noteworthy incident is the death of the famous elephant 'Chandrasekharan' of the Royal Stables, described by Capt. S. S. Flower, Director of the Egyptian Government Zoological Service, who visited India in 1913 on a Zoological mission as 'the tallest male elephant that I actually saw measured in India'. The Museum Taxidermist was deputed to assist in the preparation of the skin. The animal stood 10 ft. high at the shoulder. Capt. Flower who was making a special enquiry on the age of the elephant at the time, had found that "Chandrasekharan had a minimum ascertained age of twenty five and a supposed maximum age of forty", at the time of his visit 27 years ago. So the animal must have been 52 to 67 years of age at the time of its death. This is worthy of record as Mr. Blanford in his F. B. I, Mammalia, writes 'An elephant is full grown, but not fully mature, at 25 years of age, and individuals have been known to live over 100 years in captivity; in a wild state their existence probably extends to 150 years.' In Capt. Flower's experience, both these facts have been otherwise. According to him, Asiatic elephants attain sexual maturity between 11 and 14 years old, while absolutely convincing evidence of an elephant living to the age of 100 years has not been forthcoming.

Archaeology.

Notable additions in this section were an old spear head and a piece of pottery recovered from the grounds of the Nanthencode Palace, and another piece of pottery from underneath a menhir near the

Periyar Lake, graciously presented to the museum by Her Highness the Maharani. The spear head mentioned was heavily encrusted with earth and other matter. It was carefully cleaned by the zinc-caustic soda process and the cleaned surface was finally sealed with a solution of shellac in spirit containing lamp black.

Art And Artcrafts.

A beautiful casket of rose wood, ivory and gold, presented to the Dewan on his Shashtiabdapurthi day by the Syrian Christian community was sent to the museum by him, to be exhibited as an example of the superb craftsmanship of Travancore workmen. Plaster models of stone figures of Kulasekhara Alwar, Cheraman Perumal and Sundaramurthi from Keralapuram, a village in South Travancore, were prepared and set up on suitable pedestals. An old bronze hanging lamp with an image of Ganapathi in the centre, obtained while digging the compound wall of the Goureesapattom temple, Trivandrum, was presented to the Museum by the Devaswom authorities. The image of Ganapathi on the lamp is interesting as it has its trunk coiled to the right and not to the left as in most images.

Dr. K. L. Moudgill, Research Director of the University of Travancore and Dr. P. V. Nair, Industrial Chemist were consulted on the matter of dealing with certain disfiguring yellow spots appearing on some of the plaster models in the museum, supposed to be due to the action of the metallic framework used inside. After careful experiments they advised the clearing of the affected areas with petrol followed by treatment with lime juice. This was found to be successful.

Educational Activities.

The educational activities of the museum consisted mainly in taking round the large number of school children that visited the museum. The zoology students of the Science College made their usual annual visit to the museum with their Professor Dr. Padmanabha Iyer. The Curator gave a short talk on the birds of Travancore to the students, in accordance with the Professor's wishes. All facilities were given to Mrs. A. W. Harler, Munnar, a keen student of birds, to go

through the Museum collections, which were particularly helpful in determining a thrush she had seen in Dehra Dun. Similar help was rendered to Mr. A. P. Mathew of the Zoological department of the Science College.

Conclusion.

The Trivandrum Museum has been an institution catering to the needs of the vast masses in the country. From the humblest workman to the highest citizen it affords both pleasure and profit. Probably this act has given rise to the assertion that museums are able to give more, hour for hour, than Universities. The education imparted in schools and colleges can only touch a minority of the people. But the Museum at Trivandrum now about seventy years old has been fulfilling the highest purpose of education in the State catering to all classes of His Highness's subjects and thereby attracting the greatest public attention.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL.

Officer in Charge.

APPENDIX I.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1115 M. E.

		Rs.	Ch.	C.
Receipts	...	28	7	4
Expenditure				
Salaries	...	2,100	0	0
Establishment	...	3,510	17	15
Travelling Allowance	..	57	27	10
Contingencies	...	1,212	13	12
Total	...	6,881	3	5

APPENDIX II.

List of Holidays to the Museum during 1115 M. E.

1. All Mondays.
2. Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja.
3. Birthday of His Majesty the King Emperor.
4. New year day.
5. Empire day.
6. Thiru Onam day.
7. Temple Entry Proclamation day.
8. Unveiling day of His Highness the Maharaja's statue in Trivandrum.

APPENDIX III.

List of additions to the Museum during 1115 M. E.

No.	Item	No. of specimen.	How acquired
1	Prawn	1	Purchased.
2	Small gold pieces (parts of images such as conch, chakra etc.)	5	From the Devaswom Department.
3	Stones (small pieces – violet and white)	2	Do.
4	Plaster cast of the image of Kulasekhara Alwar	1	Purchased from the School of Arts.
5	Do of Cheraman Perumal	1	Do
6	Do of Sundara murthi	1	Do.
7	Rafter shoes	2	Purchased.
8	Hanging lamp	1	Do.
9	Chunam holder	1	Do.
10	Gold plated necklace	1	Do.
11	Casket of ebony, ivory and gold (Address presented to the Dewan	1	Presented by the Dewan.
12	Temple flag—metal	1	Purchased.
13	Toran lamp—bronze	1	Do.
14	Chungalavarta	1	Do
15	Wall lamp...bronze	1	Do.
16	Gold plated ear ornaments	2	Do
17	Gold plated Thalis	3	Do.
18	Ganapathy Hanging lamp	1	Presented by the Devaswom Department.
19	Copper coins of Kanishka and Kadphises II	2	Presented by the Director of Archaeology.
20	Rhacophorus malabaricus	1	Collected by the Curator.
21	Moth Attacus sp.	1	Purchased.
22	Snakes Oligodon sp.	2	Presented by Mr. P. G. Nilakanta Pillai.
23	Japanese and Chinese paintings	24	From the Sri Chitralayam.
24	Pieces of pottery from a burial urn and a piece of quartz	...	Presented by Her Highness the Maharani.
25	Crocodile	1	From the Zoo.
26	Sword and dagger belonging to Velu Tampi Delawa	...	Obtained from the Dewan.
27	Old spear head and pottery	...	Presented by H. H. the Maharani
28	Rattus sp.	1	Collected by the Curator.

APPENDIX IV

List of additions to the Museum Library during 1115 M. E.

Books.

1. Truth about Travancore by Nilkan Perumal.
2. The Aga Khan and his Ancestors by Naoroji M. Damasia.
3. Museums in the United States by E. L. Gill, D. Sc.

Periodicals.

1. Nature.
2. Science.
3. Current Science
4. The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.
5. The Museums Journal.

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in Charge of Museums.

GOVERNMENT OF TRAVANCORE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

1116 M. E.

TRIVANDRUM:
F. B. THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1942

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore

Read :-

The Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1116 M. E. (1941 A. D.) forwarded by the Officer in charge of the institution with his letter No. 532/41 dated the 18th December 1941.

Order D. Dis. No. 330/42 Edn., dated Trivandrum, 27th February 1942.

Recorded :-

2. The number of visitors to the Museum during the year under report was 4,01,997 as against 3,89,414 in the previous year. The institution was visited by many distinguished persons during the year.

3. Among the various activities of the Museum, the most important was the programme of adult education. Through the efforts of Professor J. H. Cousins, Art Adviser to Government, two exhibitions of paintings and another of art treasures were held in the Museum Hall. A fine collection of the copies of the mural paintings from Ajanta, Bagh, Sittanavasal, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa and Iran was exhibited at the Sri Chitra Thirunal Exhibition organised in honour of the Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja. Exhibits were sent from the Museum to an exhibition held in the Baroda State.

4. During the year under report many valuable additions were made to the Museum. A collection of 57 birds of the Travancore Ornithological Survey worked out by Mr. Whistler and forwarded by Him to His Highness the Maharaja was graciously made over by His Highness to the Museum. A historic bronze Image of Nataraja, a Devi Image, a silver casket and a few other objects of interest were presented by the Dewan to the Museum. A large collection of coins, bronze images and other antiquities belonging to the late Dr. Meenakshi was given on loan by the University of Travancore. A similar collection consisting of pottery, terra cotta figurines, stone and faience objects, copper, bronze, bone shells etc., was received from the Director-General of Archaeology in India. A few interesting items of jewellery were also added to Art and Archaeology Section of the Museum during the year. Plaster casts of Muthuvans, and Mannans two of the hill tribes in the State, were prepared during the year for exhibition in the Museum. Several other valuable additions were made to the Natural History section of the Museum, one of them being the skeleton of the famous State elephant Chandrasekharan.

(By order)

G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI,

Ag. Chief Secretary to Government.

125

24.12.42

Ce II. 1.20

Tra

To,

The Officer in charge of Museums.

Professor J. H. Cousins.

The Press Room.

REPORT ON

The Administration

OF THE

Government Museum.

Trivandrum for the year 1116 M. E.

Control.

Dr. J. H. Cousins continued as Art Adviser to Government, and Mr. R. Vasudeva Poduval as officer in charge of Museums.

General.

Through valuable additions to the existing collections and through an active programme of adult education, the museum has raised its standard of service during the year. The efforts of the staff in this direction were well appreciated by the public as illustrated by the increase in the number of visitors to the museum among whom were eminent men, parties of school children and troupes of scouts from various parts of the State and outside.

Visitors.

The total number of visitors to the museum during the year was 401997 as against 389444 in the previous year. The largest number of visitors on a single day was 13515 and the smallest number 400. Among the many notable persons who visited the Museum in the year may be mentioned Their Highnesses the Maharaja, the Maharani, the Elaya Raja, Princess Kartigai Tirunal and Prince Avittom Thirunal, the Dewan Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sir Lionel Leach, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court and Lady Leach, Sir N. N. Sircar and Lady Sircar. Rt. Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Maurice Gwyer, Sir Francis Wylie and Lt. Col. Murphy.

Education.

Among the various activities of the museum, the most important was the programme of adult education. This included temporary exhibitions, popular talks and conducted tours within the museum. Through the efforts of Dr. Cousins, Art Adviser to the Government of Travancore, two exhibitions of Paintings and one of Art treasures were held in the museum

and the museum library hall. As an important feature of the celebrations of the Birthday of H. H. the Maharaja, a fine collection of copies of mural paintings from Ajanta, Bagh, Sittanavasal, Sigiriya, Polannaruwa and Iran made by Mr. Sarkis Katchadourian an Iranian painter was exhibited in the museum library hall. Through this exhibition the public of Trivandrum got the rare chance of enjoying the glory of Ajanta and other ancient sites. The figures of Bodhisathwa Padmapani from Ajanta, The Chauri Bearer from Bagh and a Royal Lady and her attendant from Sigiriya were among the best appreciated in the collection. Mr. Katchadourian stayed in Trivandrum for a few days; and during his stay Government accorded him all facilities to copy the murals from the cave temple, at Tirunandikkarai in S. Travancore. The museum Curator was also deputed to assist him. Along with this exhibition an interesting collection of Japanese sword guards and Nebruke and choice Bidarware and China were exhibited in the museum by Prof. E. E. Speight formerly of the Islamia College. Hyderabad (Deccan).

Later in the year, another exhibition was held in the Museum Library Hall consisting of 48 paintings of Nicholas Roerich and Svetoslav Roerich. They were mostly in tempora though a few were in oil. But all were remarkable for their colour and treatment of subject. Among the works of Nicholas Roerich the most interesting, apart from his delightful Himalayan studies, were three paintings: the Armageddon, a little different from his older picture of the same title, showing a city in flames, their destructive tongues leaping and dancing while all the people were out in the cold, watching the devastating scene with terror stricken eyes. "The Aurora borealis", a sight peculiar to northern climes was represented with extraordinary effect, but the best of the three was the painting 'the heroica of China'—which represented a Chinaman - possibly a stalwart northerner, standing on a parapet which was the Great wall of China, gnashing his teeth and twisting his fingers in fury-symbolising the spirit of China and the heroism of her people. The piece de resistance of the whole collection was, however, the portrait of Nicholas Roerich by his son, Svetoslav shown with all the objects of his varied interests round him and the sparkle of the true seer in his eyes.

The educational value of such exhibitions is great. Apart from their own importance, they made the museum more and more popular and attracted visitors in larger numbers to its collections. Many museums hold temporary exhibitions of this nature for the entertainment and the edification of the public, also as an expedient to attract the attention of the people to the usual collections in the museum which though great in instructional value, tend to become drab after some time. It is hoped that it would be possible to hold an exhibition of this kind in the museum each year.

Besides these exhibitions, a few popular talks were given in the museum, on subjects of varied interestwith a view to interest the public. These talks were usually held after 6 P. M. under the newly installed electric lights which lit up the large area of stained glass in the building and produced a beautiful effect. They lasted for about half an hour and were well attended. The following talks were given during the year :—

1.	Far Eastern Arts and Crafts.	Prof. J. H. Cousins, at the Museum Annexe.
2.	The Lamps of Travancore.	Mr. R. V. Poduval at the Museum.
3.	The Jewellery of Travancore.	Do.
4.	The Fauna and Flora of Travancore as illustrated in the museum.	Mr. N. G. Pillai, at the museum.
5.	The Chief poisonous snakes of Travancore and their identification.	Do.
6.	The game animals of Travancore and the problem of their preservation.	Do.

In addition to these talks, which received encouraging response from the public, the Curator and the Museum Assistant availed themselves of every opportunity to take round parties of school children, scouts and other visitors and explain to them the various exhibits kept in the museum. These conducted tours were so popular that in several cases visitors

brought new friends and wanted the Curator to take them round. It is hoped that this activity could be further developed in the coming years.

Art and Archaeology.

The personal interest taken by their Highnesses and the Dewan in the museum tended greatly to increase the popularity of the institution in general and the section of art and archaeology in particular. Their Highnesses visited the museum on several occasions and showed great appreciation of the existing collection and their purpose. Whenever any thing interesting turned up, their Highnesses always presented it to the museum. The Dewan's interest was no less. He was a frequent visitor to the institution; and at one time when the question of exhibiting a fine set of large bronze images came up, he was personally present and directed their display in the most advantageous manner. This interest was accompanied by great generosity; and the museum has cause to be grateful to him for his present of a fine bronze image of Nataraja, a Devi, a silver casket—to mention only a few to our collection.

The museum was particularly lucky in getting on loan a large collection of coins, bronze images and other antiquities belonging to the late Dr. Meenakshi, an eminent research scholar of S. India from the authorities of the Travancore University. These were tastefully arranged in show cases with appropriate labels in the central hall. A similar collection, came through the kindness of the Director General of Archaeology in India and relate to objects illustrative of the famous Indus valley civilization. It consists of pottery, terra cotta figurines, stone and faience objects, copper, bronze, bone, shells and other miscellaneous objects. These were exhibited in a separate show case with descriptive labels. Among other additions to this section are a set of three large bronze figures of Nataraja, Apparswami and Chandikeswara and a large silver casket containing the mineral sands of Travancore obtained through the kindness of the Dewan Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer. A few interesting items of jewellery, a good series Gajalakshmi pattern hanging lamps (detailed list of all additions appended infra) were also added to this section during the year. With a considerable collection of old bronzes in the museum the problem of their cleaning and preservation was

keenly felt, and an old Ganapathi lamp of beautiful workmanship was sent to the Travancore University Research Laboratory with a view to ascertain if they could be of help in cleaning it. The Director took great interest in the matter and cleaned and sent it back in a few days. It is hoped that all the old bronzes in the museum could thus be chemically cleaned in the Research Laboratory. The museum took part in an exhibition in Baroda State by sending a collection of Travancore coins attractively mounted in a case and a few images. A note on the oldest Vishnu image in the museum was prepared by the Curator and published in the Travancore Information. A short catalogue of metal images in the museum was also prepared and sent to the Government Press for printing.

Ethnology.

A fine series of plaster casts of Muthuvans and Mannans, two of the hill tribes of Travancore, was prepared by the Officer in charge of Sri Chitralayam for exhibition in the museum. The Taxidermist and the Draftsman were deputed to assist him in the work. The casts of two men and one woman with a child in her hands were prepared. These figures with their characteristic jewellery and dress will form very interesting additions to this section which is at present represented by life size models of a Kani man and woman, a Thanda Pulaya woman and a fish wife.

Geology.

This section received a good deal of attention during the year. All the specimens of rocks and minerals illustrating the geology of Travancore were cleaned and re-arranged. Besides, a number of objects such as high temperature resisting crucibles made of thorium, zircon, and spinel illustrating the industrial uses of some of our minerals were acquired by purchase from Mr. E. Masillamony, a former Geologist to the Government of Travancore. Along with these, he was good enough to present the museum with samples of Titanium white pigment, sheets of paper to illustrate the use of Titanium white in the paper industry and colour printing inks. A gas mantle manufactured out of thorium at Bangalore, a synthetic sapphire and a pair of beryls from the Coimbatore District were included in the lot. A chart of the various commercially important minerals contained in the common beach

sand of Travancore was also presented by him to the museum for exhibition in the mineral gallery.

Natural History Section.

The bulk of the collections of the Trivandrum museum come under this division ; and considerable time was devoted to the routine work of cleaning, preserving and re-arranging the various objects both in the exhibited and reserve series. A collection of 57 birds of the Travancore Ornithological Survey worked out by Mr. H. Whistler, England and forwarded by him to H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore was made over to the museum. They are kept along with the remainder of this series for purposes of study. The Curator went on tour twice to the High Ranges and made a collection of plants, millipedes, insects and small mammals for the museum. Particularly interesting was the addition of the skin and skull of a jackal to the museum collections. Another interesting addition to this section was the skeleton of the famous elephant Chandrasekharan belonging to H. H. the Maharaja, but it was incomplete and so could not be articulated. A note on the animal was prepared and sent to the editor of the Bombay Natural History Society for publication.

Under orders of Government the services of Mr. E. S. Simon, Museum Assistant were lent to the Game Department, Peermade in connection with the transport of a pair of zebras from the Mysore Zoological Gardens from where he took charge of the animals and brought them over to the Edapalayam Camp on the Periyar Lake.

The museum has thus run a year of useful service to the public. In the coming years it is hoped to increase the scope and usefulness of the institution further by a definite policy of service to school teachers and children. It is said that the number of good museums in a country is a sure index of its progress. Judging by this standard, Travancore occupies a pre-eminent place among the Indian States in giving full recognition to the importance of the museum as a powerful medium of education.

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX I.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1116 M. E.

		Rs.	Ch.	C.
Receipts	...	27	16	0
Expenditure :—				
Salaries	...	2,126	22	0
Establishment	...	3,616	6	12
Travelling Allowance	...	164	18	14
Contingencies	....	2,581	18	1
Total	...	8,489	9	11

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX II.

Statement of additions and disposals during 1116 M. E.

Additions.

No.	Item.	No. of specimens.	How acquired.
1	Millipedes (Trachyulus sp. ...	2	Collected.
2	Squilla specimen ...	1	Purchased.
3	Meenakshi collection		
	(a) coins ...	444	Obtained through the University of Travancore.
	(b) images & other bronzes...	16	Do.
4	Metal images ...	14	Purchased.
5	Bird skins ...	57	Part of Ornithological survey collection.
6	Bell metal tray ...	1	Purchased.
7	Bell metal ladle ...	1	Do.
8	Kathakali lamp ...	1	Do.
9	Neeklaces (gold plated) ...	2	Do.
10	Bracelets do. ...	2	Do.
11	Anklets do. ...	2	Do.
12	Squrrel (sciurus palmarum) ...	1	Collected.
13	Jackal (Canis sp.) ...	1	Do.
14	Muduvu (Hand ornaments) ...	4	Presented by Mrs. Vittal Pai.
15	Chain of beds ...	1	Do.
16	Necklaces ...	3	Do.
17	Gwalior State Revenue stamp ...	1	Obtained from Palace.
18	Coins (copper) ...	4	Do.
19	Titanium white pigment ...	3	Tins Presented by Mr. E. Masillamony.
20	Sheets of paper illustrating Titanium industry ...	10	Do.
21	Gasmántle ...	1	Do.
22	Rubber sheet ...	1	Do.
23	Crucibles ...	5	Purchased.
24	Metalware ...	7	Do.
25	Bronze Nataraja (large) ...	1	Do.
26	Image of Parameswara ...	1	Do.
27	Image of Appar Swami ...	1	Do.
28	Precious stones ...	3	Presented by Mr. E. Masillamony.
29	Silver casket ...	1	Presented by the Dewan.
30	Archaeological exhibits from Moehnjo Daro ...	350	From the Director General of Archaeology in India.
31	Jewellery specimens ...	5	Purchased.
32	Bronze hanging lamps ...	5	Do.
33	Jewellery-necklace ...	3	Do.
34	Elephant skeleton ...		From the Royal Stables.
35	Ethnological models ...	4	Prepared.
	DISPOSALS.		
1	Ivory tankard ...	1	Returned to the Retired Superintendent of School of Arts.

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX III.

List of additions to the Museum Library during 1116 M. E.

Periodicals.

I. By Subscription :—

1.	Nature	August 1940 to August 1941.
2.	~~Since~~ Science	Do.
3.	Current Science	Do.
4.	Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society	Do.
5.	The Museums Journal.	Do.

II. By Presentation.

1. Proceedings of the United States National Museum.
2. Contributions from the Biological Laboratory of the Science of China.
3. Catalogue of the General Archaeological Library of the Archaeological Survey of India.
4. Catalogue of books, manuscripts etc., in the British Museum.
5. Proceedings of the Madras Literary Society 1916.
6. Travancore Information.

Books.

1. Archaeology in Travancore by R. V. Poduval.
2. Outline of Modern Belief by J. W. N. Sullivan (3 Vols.) and Walter Grierson.
3. Modern Travancore by A. Padmanabha Iyer.

R. Vasudeva Poduval,
Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX IV.

Statement of Holidays for the Museum during 1116 M. E.

1. All Mondays.
2. Thiru Onam day,
3. H. H. the Maharaja's Birthday.
4. Temple Entry Proclamation Day.
5. New Year Day.
6. Demise of H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin.
7. Investiture of H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin.
8. Empire Day.
9. H. M. the King Emperor's Birthday.

APPENDIX V.

Statement of visitors' number during 1116 M. E.

1.	Total number of visitors during the year	4,01,997
2.	Number of days on which the museum was open	306
3.	Average No. of visitors per day	1,314
4.	Largest No. for a single day	13,515
5.	Smallest No. for a single day	400
6.	Total No. of Visitors (women and children) on Wednesdays	32,669

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge of Museums.

GOVERNMENT OF TRAVANCORE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

1117 M. E.

TRIVANDRUM:
P... BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1943

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

Read :—The administration report of the Government Museum for the year 1117 M. E. (1941-42 A. D.) forwarded by the Officer in charge of the institution with his letter No 38/43 dated 22-1-1943.

Order D. Dis. No. 366/43/Edn. dated 9th March 1943.

Recorded.

2. The number of visitors to the Museum during the year under report was 3,21,960 as against 4,01,907 in the previous year.

3. The most important work that was done during the year under report was the rearrangement of the exhibits including Javanese and Balinese Art treasures; and these were carefully arranged and set on display. Many valuable additions were made to the exhibits in the Museum during the year.

4. Government hope that the exhibition as rearranged in the institution will add to its educative value and usefulness to the public and attract an ever larger number.

(By order)
G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Officer in charge of Museums.
Professor J. H. Cousins.
The Press Room.

REPORT

ON THE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM,

TRIVANDRUM FOR 1117 M. E.

CONTROL.

Professor J. H. Cousins continued to be the Art Adviser to Government and Mr. R. Vasudeva Poduval the Officer in charge of the institution.

GENERAL.

Despite the difficulties and limitations consequent on the war, the Museum continued its work uninterruptedly as in previous years. Interesting additions were made to the collections notably in the section relating to art and art-crafts. During the celebrations in connection with the birthday of His Highness the Maharaja, a special exhibition of paintings was arranged, which was highly appreciated by the public. This and the series of popular talks held in the Museum helped considerably in increasing the popularity of the institution.

VISITORS.

A large number of persons were attracted to the Museum, among whom were school parties, scouts and distinguished guests of the State. The Museum was kept open to the public for 310 days in the year, and the total number of visitors, according to the count taken every day, was 321960 (an average of 1038 per day) as against 401997 in the previous year. Among the distinguished visitors to the institution were Their Highnesses the Maharaja, Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi and other members of the Ruling Family; His Highness the Maharaja and Their Highnesses the Yuvarani and the Princess of Mysore; Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore; Mr. Madhava Rao, Dewan of Mysore; Mr. Thamboo Chetty, Private Secretary to the Maharaja of Mysore; Sir Mirza Ismail, retired Dewan of Mysore; Seth Ambalal Sarabai and family; Sir Henry Craik, Political Adviser to the Crown Representative and Professor F. Vreede. All the visitors to the Museum were taken round by the Officer and the staff of the institution. A programme of adult and child education in collaboration with the teachers of the schools in the State is envisaged in the future.

Work of the year -Rearrangement of cases and exhibits.

The most important work done in the year was in the direction of rearranging the exhibits in the Museum Annexe. The books which were in the back room of the building were removed to the Office building of the Government Gardens; and in the space thus released were rearranged and set on display the Javanese and Balinese art treasures collected by Their Highnesses during their tour to the Netherlands East Indies. The show cases for the shadow play figures which stood across the archway separating the two rooms and facing the main entrance was reversed so as to face into the back room as an item of the Java-Bali collection. The paintings of Nicholas Roerich and Svetoslav Roerich which were in the Sri Chitralayam, were removed to the main hall of the Annexe; where these paintings make a better show. The educational value of the institution was enhanced by popular talks by the Art Adviser to Government, the Officer in charge of the Museum and his assistants. The following talks were given :—

1.	The Javanese and Balinese Art Treasures.	Prof. J. H. Cousins, Museum, Annexe.
2.	The Musical instruments of Travancore.	Mr. R. V. Poduval, Museum.
3.	The Educational value of Museums.	Mr. E. S. Simon, Museum.
4.	Museums and their functions.	Mr. N. G. Pillai, Training College.
5.	The Trivandrum Museum at work.	Mr. N. G. Pillai, Tutorial College, Vanchiyoor.

In addition to these, articles on the following subjects were contributed to the journal of the Bombay Natural History Society by the Curator of the Museum.

1. The height and age of an Elephant—(Chandrasekhara of the Royal Stables of H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore.
2. The 'Anting' habit of the Common Mynah.
3. Battle between Black and Red Ants.
4. The Breeding habit of the chequered watersnake.

A. R. P. Work.

Apprehending the possibilities of an air raid, precautions were taken to protect the valuable collections in the Museum. All the glass shutters were provided with suitable covering material. The members of the staff attended the A. R. P. demonstrations held in the city, and were instructed in the use of stirrup-pumps and other fire-fighting apparatus.

As a special feature of the birthday celebration, a collection of paintings by Sudhir Khastgir, art teacher of the Doon School, and of K. Madhava Menon, a Kerala Artist, was displayed in the Museum Annexe. This attracted a large number of visitors to the institution.

NOTABLE ADDITIONS.

The continued interest taken by their Highnesses and the Dewan in the Museum was the greatest contributory factor to its development in the year. The following are the most notable additions made in the year.

1. Ornaments worn by the Tamil women of Shencottah and the neighbouring places.
2. A group of South Indian bronzes (*vide* appendix B.) of exquisite workmanship.
3. A plaster cast of Viswarupa from Suchindram temple, prepared by Mr. Madhavan Unnithan, retired Superintendent of the School of Arts.
4. The head of a bison picked up in the forest near Mulla Periyar in North Travancore by Mr. S. C. H. Robinson, the Game Warden of Travancore, and presented to the Museum. This head has proved to be the largest so far reported from Travancore.

A list of additions to the Museum during the year is given in Appendix B.

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1117.

	Rs.	Ch.	C.
Receipts ..	49	0	0
Expenditure.			
Salaries ...	1527	0	0
Establishment ...	3441	0	0
Travelling Allowance...	41	0	0
Contingencies ...	1771	0	0
Total ...	6780	0	0

APPENDIX B.

Additions and disposals during 1117 M. E.

1.	ADDITIONS.	How obtained.
	1. 4 pairs of gold ear ornaments worn by the Tamil women of Shencottah	Received from the Palace.
	2. Japanese masks	Presented by Professor J. H. Cousins.
	3. Folder Dara Bharata	Do.
	4. Bronze Hanging lamp	Purchased.
	5. Plaster model of the statue of H. H. the Maharani	Presented by H. H. The Maharani Statue Committee.
	6. Plaster casts of Viswarupom Kamadhenu and Elephant Goddess	From Suchindrum temple.
	7. Bronze Somaskanda, Parvati with attendant Goddesses, Devi and Vishnu	Received from the Palace.
	8. Brass plate, bronze box, Madan, torch, Palanquin and lamp	Purchased.
	9. Bronze Nataraja—2	Received from the Palace.
	Do. Ardha Nariswara 1	Do.
	Do. Seated Devi 1	Do.
	Do. Standing Devi 1	Do.
	Do. Siva with 8 hands 1	Do.
	Do. Kankalamurti 3	Do.
	Do. Woman with cymbals 1	Do.
	Do. Veenadhara 1	Do.
	Do. Chandikeswara 1	Do.
	10. Seated images of Buddha from Taxila	From Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer.
	11. Nettoor petty	Purchased.
	12. Skull of bison	From the Game Warden.
	13. Roerich paintings—17	Transferred from the Sri Chitralayam.

2. SPECIMENS TRANSFERRED.

1. 27 Japanese and Chinese paintings—shifted to the Sri Chitralayam.
2. Model of the statue of H. H. The Maharani—Transferred to the school of Arts.
3. Ornamental dressing table—transferred to the School of Arts.

APPENDIX C.

List of additions to the Museum Library.

1. Periodicals :—
   - Nature.
   - Science.
   - Current Science.
   - Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.
2. Books :—
   - Birds of India by Salim Ali.
   - Watching Birds by J. Fisher.
   - The personality of Animals by H. Munro Fox.
   - A Short Guide to Manchester Museum.
   - Essays in Anthropology—Presented to Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy.
   - Fifteen thousand useful phrases by G. Kleiser.
   - Life of T. Lakshmanan Pillai by M. S. Ramaswami Iyer.
   - Kerala Culture by Mammen, J.

OF TRAVANCORE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

1113 M. E.

TRIVANDRUM:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1944

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

Read :—

The Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1118 M. E. (1942-43 A. D.) forwarded by the Officer in charge of the institution with his letter No. 21/44 dated 18-1-1944.

Order D. Dis. No. 386/44/Edn., dated, Trivandrum, 29th March 1944.

Recorded :—

During the year under report the natural history collections of the Museum were housed in a separate building in the Shankumughom beach. This arrangement has enabled the Department to utilise the whole of the Museum building for the display of the valuable collections of art and handicrafts, consisting of bronzes, stones and wooden images, metal lamps jewellery, ivory articles and musical instruments.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the year was 209967.

Government note that the housing of the natural history specimens in a separate building has released sufficient space for the display of numerous art exhibits.

By order,

G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI,

Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Officer in charge of Museums.
The Press Room.
Prof. J. H. Cousins.

FROM

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUSEUMS,
TRIVANDRUM.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TRIVANDRUM.

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith the Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1118 M. E. (1942-43 A. D.)

Introduction.

The collections of the institution grew so rapidly in recent years that at the beginning of the year under report they stood at 25,000 including the specimens of Zoology, Botany, Geology, Anthropology, Numismatics, Philately, Textiles, Arts, Handicrafts and Economic products. The existing space available for the proper display and storage of these objects was found so inadequate that steps had to be taken to relieve the congestion and the bifurcation of the institution was found the most practicable way of doing so. Government therefore ordered that as a first step towards the removal of the congestion, the Natural History collection of the Museum should be transferred to the Shankumughom palace building until a new structure could be erected to house it. With a good deal of space thus released, the work of re-arranging the specimens of art and art-crafts was taken in hand and completed during the year, under the guidance of the Art Adviser to Government. Though the chief attention of the staff was directed to the re-arrangement of the specimens both at the main Museum building and the Shankumughom Palace building, every opportunity was made use of to educate as usual the public by conducted tours and periodical talks.

The Natural History Collections.

The most extensive work of the year was the transfer of the Natural History collection of the Museum to the Shankumughom Palace. Part of the collections was removed first to the Old Arts College building under the orders of Government, but was subsequently restored to the bulk of the collections which were transferred straight to the Shankumughom Palace. The work of transfer of the show cases and of the specimens was one of considerable difficulty, but with the whole hearted co-operation of

the staff of the P. W. D. Workshops and the Museum employees it was effected with hardly any damage to the exhibits. The Taxidermist and two laboratory assistants were deputed to work at the Shankumughom Palace with instructions to carry out the installation of the collections under the supervision of the Curator.

Arrangement of the collections at the Palace.

The Palace consists of one large hall 150′ x 60′ where all the show cases and exhibits have been arranged. The space needed for the storage of a considerable part of the reserve collections was improvised by arranging the show cases about 7 ft. from the wall all round. The cases were placed in the same manner as in the main Museum building, the mammals and birds at one end, the anthropological section consisting of a model of a Nair house and life size casts of some of the Hillmen of Travancore in the middle and Reptiles, Fish, Geological and Botanical specimens at the other end. The display of all these objects is complete, except for the mounting of the large collection of horns and heads of mammals on the walls.

Rearrangement in the Main Museum building.

The space gained in the Government Museum by the transfer of the Natural History specimens was utilised for the better display of the collections of art and handicrafts consisting of bronzes, stone and wooden images, metal lamps, jewellery, ivory articles and musical instruments. These were tastefully arranged by the Art Adviser to Government. The walls of the Museum were repainted in cream colour. As the alternating vertical stripes of brick red and blue on the walls did not harmonise with the present collection of bronze and stone exhibits, cream was used throughout with gratifying results. The original stripes have been left undisturbed in the two end halls, devoted to miscellaneous objects. Coir runners in red with blue and brown edging laid in the central hall and along the corridors have added appreciably to the general appearance of the interior of the building. All show cases, especially those against the wall, have now a background of red which brings the metal images exhibited inside into greater relief. The larger statues have been provided with neat, simple and attractive teakwood pedestals. Two pillar cases were also added during the year.

Plan of the galleries in the Museum.

The Central Hall now contains plaster casts of stone figures from the Sree Padmanabhaswami Temple, Trivandrum and the Suchindrum temple in South Travancore, arranged in wall cases

near the main entrance; while on the opposite side a group of musical instruments and metal objects of worship and antiquities from Mohenjodaro are displayed. In the centre is a wooden "*mandapa*" with a wooden "*vimana*" in front of it. The corridor leading from the Central Hall to the right wing is devoted to bronze Saivite images; the wing adjoining houses a collection of metal lamps, old jewellery and ivory and kuftgari work. Similarly, the corridor leading from the Central Hall on the left contains a further collection of bronze images, chiefly Vaishnavite, and stone and wooden statues; in the centre of the wing next to this is exhibited a richly carved "*ratha*" or temple car from Padmanabhapuram, with wooden images arranged round the walls.

Important additions to the Museum.

The Ratham or Car mentioned above, is by far the largest addition to the collections. It is 12′ long, 9′ broad, 9′ high, and rises in 4 tiers richly carved with figures of the Hindu pantheon and Puranic Heroes. Besides these, there are interesting friezes of foot and mounted soldiers and a procession of elephants hauling a log of timber. A wealth of lotus, parakeet and Yali motifs also contributes to the beauty of the piece. The Ratha was lying inside the Padmanabhapuram Fort exposed to the weather and incomplete in several places when it was acquired for the Museum. Even in this incomplete and weatherworn condition it is a thing of beauty, and when renovated will show Travancore wood-carving at its best.

Besides the Ratha, 4 wooden images, a Brahma, Narasimha and 2 Dakshinamurtis from Thiruvattar temple were added to the collection and are well displayed in the wood-carving wing. A fine collection of gold coins and bronzes bought from Mr. Srinivasa Gopalachari of Madras is another of the noteworthy acquisitions of the year. Among the bronze images, a Rama, Lakshmana and Hanuman group, the Rama about 2′ high, deserves special mention. A list of additions to the Museum collections is appended to this report.

Visitors.

The acquisition of interesting objects like the above is an important function of a Museum; but more important still, is its function of educating the public on the story which each object exhibited has to tell. In the words of F. Trubee Davison, President of one of the finest Museums of the world, the American Museum of Natural History, "the Museum stands at the fore front of the institutions designed to satisfy intellectual hunger,

The Museum is not limited, like the public school, to the young. The Museum is not dedicated, like the college or University, solely to the educated. The Museum does not, like the library, serve only the literate. The Museum deals with all peoples on all levels, and can and does reach out to meet the intellectual hunger of all people of every degree on all levels of intellectual attainment. It is a democracy's most important agency for the spread of honest understanding of life." With this ideal in mind every effort was made to make the Museum instructive to the public by periodically conducted tours and talks by the staff. The response was most encouraging. The visitors included all classes of people from all walks of life. Statistics of the number of visitors to the Museum are added to this report. The following visitors require special mention ; Members of the Ruling family of Travancore, the Dewan, H. E. the Governor of Madras and Lady Hope, Sir Edward Benthall, the late Lakshmikutty Netyarama of Cochin and members of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

Educational Work.

Though the chief work of the Museum during the year was connected with the transfer of the Natural History section to the Shankumughom Palace and the re-arrangement of the collections in the two places, which gave hardly any time for other activities, the importance of the educational aspect of the Museum's work was not lost sight of, and the following programme was carried out :—

The Musical Instruments of Travancore—
Talk by Mr. R. V. Poduval, Director of Archaeology.

The Arts and Crafts of Java & Bali—
Talk by Dr. J. H. Cousins, Art Adviser to Government.

The Paintings of the Roerichs— do.

South Indian metal images—
Talk by Mr. N. G. Pillai, Curator of Museum.

Besides these, Dr. Cousins gave two broadcasts from the Trivandrum Station on the Art Treasures exhibited in the Museum.

Yours faithfully,

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,

Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1118 M. E.

		Rs.	Ch.	C.
RECEIPTS	..	16	0	0
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries	... ...	1,327	0	0
Establishment	.. ...	3,630	0	0
Contingencies	.. ...	51,817	0	0
	Total ...	56,774	0	0

APPENDIX B.

Statistics of visitors to the Museum during 1118

1.	Total number of visitors to the museum during the year	209,967
2.	Largest No. of visitors on a single day	14,405
3.	Total No. of days on which the institution was open ...	305

APPENDIX C

List of Holidays for the Museum.

1. All Mondays.
2. Tiru Onam Day.
3. Birthday of H. H. the Maharaja
4. Temple Entry Proclamation Day.
5. New Year Day.
6. Demise of H. H. the Maharaja of Bikaner.
7. Vishu.
8. Tunisia Day.

APPENDIX D.

List of additions to the Museum during 1118 M. E.

1. Veenadhara in brass plate.
2. Bronze lamp—3 spouted.
3. Hanging chain lamp with tiers in bronze.
4. Bronze lamp with peacock.
5. Bronze Parvati.
6. Bronze Vishnu.
7. Bronze Palaniyantavar.
8. Bronze lamp with bird pattern.
9. Bronze hanging lamp 3 spouted.
10. Bronze Somaskanda.
11. Bronze Bhairava (4 handed).
12. Bronze Veerabhadra (8 handed).
13. Bronze Parasurama.
14. Bronze Palaniandavar.
15. Bronze Devi.
16. Bronze Medal Century of Progress Exhibition. America.
17. Bronze Uma Tandava.
18. Nataraja with circular prabha.
19. Do. oval prabha.
20. Sri Rama.
21. Sudarsana.
22. Siva seated on Apasmara purusha in wood.
23. Brahma seated (wood).
24. Narasimha seated (wood).
25. Vishnu do. do.
26. Wooden Ratha.
27. A collection of Bronze images from Srinivasagopalachari of Madras.
28. Bronze Uma seated.
29. Do. Maheswara seated.
30. Do. Ganesa without prabha.
31. Bronze Bhagavati in relief.
32. Vishnu and Lakshmi on Garuda
33. Bronze Saraswati seated.
34. Bronze Vishnu seated
35. Bronze Alwar (small.)
36. Do. Naga Krishna.
37. Do. Parasurama 4 handed
38. Do. Vishnu 4 handed.

39. Bronze Shanmukha 12 handed.
40. Do. Kalyana Sundaramurti.
41. Do. Yesoda Krishna.
42. Devi in special pose.
43. Devi with hand broken.
44. Udayavar Vaishnavite priest.
45. Somaskanda.
46. Vishnu Durga.
47. Raja Rajeswari.
48. Subramonia.
49. Devayani.
50. Nammalwar.
51. Krishna and 2 Gopis.
52. Vishnu in sitting posture.
53. Surya.
54. Devi.
55. Musical instrument Damaru.
56. Standing Siva Bronze.
57. Nataraja with prabha.
58. Bronze Siva.
59. Bronze Parvati.
60. Bronze Parvati 2 handed.
61. Do. Brahma seated.
62. Do. Devi.
63. Do. Mahaveerabhadra.
64. Bronze Siva seated.
65. Bronze Vishnu standing.
66. Do. Devi seated.
67. Bronze Vishnu.
68. Do. Nataraja.
69. Do. Parvati standing.
70. Do. Nataraja with loose jata.
71. Do. Nataraja.
72. Do. Rama.
73. Do. Lakshmana.
74. Do. Hanuman.
75. Musical instrument Yesraj
76. Do. Katyayana veena.
77. Do Moursing.

GOVERNMENT OF TRAVANCORE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

1119 M. E.

TRIVANDRUM:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1943

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

Read :—

The Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1119 M. E. forwarded by the Officer in charge of Museums with his letter No. 23/45 dated 22-1-1945.

Order D. Dis. No. 419/45/Edn. dated Trivandrum 10th March 1945.

Recorded.

By order,
G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI,
Chief Secretary to Government.

The Officer in charge of Museums.
Prof. J. H. Cousins.
The Press Room.

FROM

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUSEUMS,
TRIVANDRUM.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TRIVANDRUM.

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith the Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1119 M. E. (1943-44 A. D.)

With the temporary transfer of the Natural History specimens to the Shankumughom Palace last year, the collections of the Government Museum have come to be in three separate buildings (1) the Main museum housing the specimens of Indian arts and crafts, particularly of Travancore; (2) the Museum Annexe near the eastern gate of the park, the art objects from Java and Bali and works of the Russian painters Nicholas and Svetoslav Roerich; and (3) the Shankumughom Palace where the Natural History collections are exhibited.

Art Museum.

Attention was chiefly bestowed on the temple car—"*ratham*"-brought from Padmanabhapuram and exhibited in the northern wing of the Museum. Steps were taken to replace the missing carved figures from the sides of the "*ratham*". A local carpenter was engaged for the work. He made all the "*yali*" figures and fixed them in their proper positions on the "*ratham*". A collection of figures was acquired from Shencottach where a temple car, nearly the same size as the Padmanabhapuram "*ratham*" belonging to the Klangad temple was being dismantled. The panels are intended to make a frieze around the wood carving wing. The figures were heavily coated with resinous matter and could not be set up without proper cleaning. The Director of Research of the Travancore University was consulted in this matter. Later in the year the Padmanabhapuram "*ratham*" showed signs of white ants. The Maramat Engineer treated the props resting on the floor with Ascu and there has been no further trouble from these pests.

On the wall facing the "*ratham*" a panel of Gaja Lakshmi which was originally exhibited in the central hall of the museum was set up. A group of small carvings representing "Rishis" and "Devis" was mounted below the Gaja Lakshmi in two vertical series at each end of the panel and in the centre a typical Malabar column and capital. On the opposite wall another series of wood carvings of floral and animal designs attractively mounted on two teakwood boards was displayed.

In the lamp section, the case devoted to indigenous lamps was rearranged by the Art Adviser to Government and on his suggestion the case was provided with red cloth background uniformly with the

rest of the show cases and the lamps tastefully displayed. Rearrangements of the contents of the Musical Instruments case and the adjacent Astamangalyam case were also carried out during the year.

Another important item of work taken up during the year was the setting up of all the large bronze images and their exhibition on suitable pedestals. The suggestion of having rows of images on bench pedestals was discarded and separate pedestals to suit each image were designed and made in teakwood at the P. W. D. Workshops. Although of different sizes, the pedestals were made of the same height 2' 9" which brought the object resting on them within eye level of the average observer. To the 'God of Destruction' a plaster model of Siva as destroyer, presented by Mr. D. P. Roy Choudhiri, Principal, Madras School of Arts, a high pedestal in blackwood of special design was provided.

The Museum Draftsman was deputed towards the close of the year to Suchindrum temple to prepare plaster casts of the figures round the Chempakaraman mantapam. These figures are in panels about three feet long and a foot high, and are intended to form a frieze for the metal and stone sculpture corridors of the museum. Among the additions to the Musem during the year were: a plaster model of the 'God of Destruction' by Mr. D. P. Roy Choudhiri referred to above; a stone image of Vishnu 1' 6" high collected by Sree K. Nilakanta Pillai, Trivandrum from Neyyattinkara and a beautiful bronze image of Gajatandavamurti 8" high.

Museum Annexe.

The flat leather figures of the Wavang Kulit, or Javanese shadow play were rearranged and neatly fixed by means of metal tacks. On a red background the figures now stand out prominently and have become a popular attraction in the building. The collection of Ceylonese masks were rearranged on the wall above the Wavang Kulit case. Another collection of Balinese masks which overcrowded a pillar case was completely re-arranged in two show cases and tastefully displayed by the Art Adviser to Government. The plaster and paper moulds of the casts from Prambanan and Borobodur were received from the School of Arts, Trivandrum where they had been kept for sometime, and are now stored on the balconies of the main museum building. The costume of the Balinese girl dancer which was getting bleached by light was retouched by the Superintendent of the School of Arts.

Shankumughom Palace Museum.

Building. The annual maintenance work was attended to by the Panivaga Maramat Engineer. The space between the roof and the top edge of the wall was closed up to prevent the entrance of pigeons and other birds that got into the building, and moving among the rafters, dislodged little pebbles and other matter and caused damage to show cases.

Collections. The installation of the exhibits in the various sections of the museum received the chief attention of the staff. Many of the show cases needed minor repairs and adjustments and these were done by a carpenter deputed from the P. W. D. Workshops. After the exhibits were installed in their places, the work of labelling was started. The plaster casts of the whale shark, False killer-whale and the collection of dolphins had suffered slight damage in transit. The Draftsman attended to this work and repaired and repainted all the damaged specimens. The dress on the models of the Nair woman and Dancing girl which were soiled and untidy was renewed. A life size model of Malampandaram, one of the Hill tribes of Travancore, was added to the Ethnological collections where similar models of the Panda pulaya, Kani and Mutuvan are already represented.

Visitors.

Statistics of visitors to the Museum are included in the appendix. Parties of school children, scouts and university students visited the Museum in large numbers. The senior zoology students of the university college, Trivandrum, made a two-day tour of the Shankumughom Palace museum, going through the collections and taking notes on the exhibits arranged here. A party of students from the Geological department of the Presidency College, Madras also visited the Museum and examined the collections of rocks and minerals with great interest. Among the prominent visitors, mention may be made of H. H. the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, Sir Maurice Gwyer, Sir Sultan Ahmed, and other distinguished State Guests.

Educational.

Members of the Museum staff took every opportunity to explain the objects to the visitors who showed interest in the collections. The service was extended to individuals as well as to parties of school children. A research student of the Marine Biology Department who was working on the Decapod Fauna of Travancore was given every facility to examine the collections in the Museum.

Yours faithfully,

R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,

Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1119 M. E.

		Rs.	Ch.	C.
RECEIPTS	...	40	0	0
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries	...	1,527	0	0
Establishment	...	4,617	0	0
Allowance	...	194	0	0
Contingencies	..	8,165	0	0
Total	...	14,503	0	0

APPENDIX B.

List of Holidays for the Museum.

1. All Mondays.
2. Thiru Onam Day.
3. Birthday of H. H. the Maharaja.
4. Temple Entry Proclamation Day
5. New Year Day.
6. Vishu.

APPENDIX C.

Statistics of visitors to the Museum during 1119.

1.	Total number of visitors to the Art Museum ...	156,483
2.	Total number of visitors to the Shankumughom Palace Museum ...	271,498
3.	Largest number of visitors on one day ...	12,651
4.	Smallest number of visitors on one day ...	179

APPENDIX D.

List of additions to the Museum during 1119 M. E.

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1. Violin with bow.
2. Model of Malampandaram.
3. Bronze image of Gajatandavamurti.
4. Bronze image of Nataraja.
5. Bronze image of Siva standing with prabha.
6. Do. Vishnu seated.
7. Do. Lakshmi seated.
8. Do. Agastya seated.
9. Do. Hanuman.
10. Do. Venugopala.
11. Do. Garudasana Krishna.
12. Stone Vishnu standing.
13. Panels of wood carving from Klangad temple.
14. Bronze Mangala Devi.
15. Do. Incense stand.
16. Do. Scent sprinkler.

GOVERNMENT OF TRAVANCORE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

1120 M. E.

1944-45

TRIVANDRUM:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1946

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore,

Read :—

The Administration report of the Government Museum for the yea 1120 M. E. (1944-45) forwarded by the Officer in charge of Museums with his letter No. 56/46 dated 31-1-1946.

Order D. Dis. No. 547/46/Edn. dated 1st April 1946.

Trivandrum.

Recorded.

By order,
M. PADMANABHA PILLAI,
Secretary to Government.

The Officer in Charge of Museums.
Professor J. H. Cousins.
The Press Room.

FROM

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUSEUMS,
TRIVANDRUM.

To

THE REGISTRAR, HUZUR, SECRETARIAT,
TRIVANDRUM.

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith the Administration Report of the Government Museum for the year 1120 M. E. (1944-45 A. D.).

Introduction.

The Museum at Trivandrum has a continuous history from about 1856, and has successfully emerged from its formative stages into a public gallery functioning as a great educational centre. During the year under report, the Museum did its best to demonstrate the effectiveness of visual education by assembling and displaying materials of artistic interest in the main museum building within the Public Gardens. The Museum is not now regarded as a collection of curiosities. It is serving as a useful medium of popular education. It has fulfilled a two-fold duty to the students and to the general public. It has stimulated the curiosity of the people, the gratification of which has tended to increase their knowledge. It has also enlarged the minds of the visitors by multiplying their interest, trained their tastes and tended to develop in them an appreciation of the beautiful. The Museum has thus provided a means of recreation and intellectual and aesthetic enjoyment. As an instrument of general education and cultured recreation, the Trivandrum Museum has functioned with conspicuous utility, and the public recognition of its usefulness and value is borne out and maintained by the figure of attendance.

Visitors.

Among the distinguished visitors to the Museum were H. E. the Viceroy and Lady Wavell, H. E. the Commander in Chief and H. H. the Maharaja of Kapurthala. The total number of visitors to the Museum during the year was 297,102. The largest number on any one day was 12,947 and smallest 589. The war exhibition that was held at Trivandrum during December 1944 was one of unprecedented magnitude and drew large crowds from all over the country. They availed this opportunity to see the Museum also during their visit to the capital.

Plaster Casts.

Early in the year, the Draftsman returned from Suchindrum where he was deputed to prepare plaster models of certain sculptures in the temple for exhibition in the Museum. The following casts that he made from Suchindrum are now on exhibition in the Museum.

1. *Subramonia*,—2'6" × 2'. Subramonia seated on peacock with upper right and left hands carrying respectively the vajra and the thunderbolt and the lower right hand and left hands in abhaya and varada pose respectively.

2. *Trivikrama*.—3'3" × 2'. Crowned and draped figure with 8 hands, Standing on right foot planted erect on the ground and the left leg lifted high in the air, the hands on the right carrying respectively the arrow, discus, sword and club, while the left in similar order holding the bow, conch and discus, the topmost hand pointing skywards. Near the right foot is the seated figure of Sukracharya whose right hand is engaged in rubbing the right eye while close to the left foot are two figures the taller of which is pouring water out of a spouted vessel into a pot held by the shorter figure above whom is held an umbrella.

3. *Vishnu*. The third piece in this section is a Vishnu 2'6" × 2' on his vehicle Garuda. Vishnu has four hands, the upper right and left carrying the discus and conch respectively, while the lower right is in the abhaya pose, the left going round the waist of his consort who is seated on his left thigh. Two celestials ride on clouds behind Vishnu's head.

Besides the three figures mentioned above casts were made from the plinth of the mantapa inside the temple. The figures are grouped in panels 2'6" × 8" round the base on the outerside of the mantapa. They illustrate the boyhood of Krishna, the story Markandeya Dasavatara, Valli Swayamvara etc. The friezes relate to the following stories and episodes.

I. *Krishna Leela*.

1. Pootana Moksha.
2. Dance of Krishna and Gopis.
3. Krishna going to Kamsa's court.
4. Krishna destroying a demon.
5. Krishna as Venugopal.
6. Govardhanodhara.
7. Palazhimathana,
8. Chakatasura vadha.
9. Krishna destroying Kukkutasura.
10. Rasa kreeda.
11. Ksheerapaharana.
12. Kamsa vadha.
13. Kaliya mardhana.
14 & 15. Gajendramoksha.

II. Dasavatara, 16, 17 and 18.
III. Markandamoksha 19.
IV. The dance of Nataraja 20.
V. Ratisamhara 21.
VI. Valliswayamvara 22, 23 and 24,

Cleaning and rearrangement.

Four large wooden carvings of Brahma, Vishnu, Narasimha and Siva obtained last year from the Tiruvattar temple and small pieces of wood carving from the Klangad temple car were covered with dust dirt and oil. Their cleaning was an urgent necessity and presented a difficult problem because the work demanded considerable skill and care. They were thoroughly cleaned by the Museum Taxidermist by soaking them in a solution made after a recipe obtained from Mysore by Dr. J. H. Cousins. After being thoroughly cleaned, the small pieces from the Klangad temple were fitted on the Ratha exhibited in the Museum gallery.

Considerable time was devoted to the rearrangement and proper display of the exhibits in the Museum. This was done under the guidance of Dr. Cousins, the Art Adviser to the Government of Travancore. The plaster cast collections were divided into two series those from the Padmanabhaswami temple were arranged in a separate show case while those from the Suchindrum temple were displayed tastefully in an adjoining case. The red cloth covering the balcony was renovated. The bronze images that were exhibited in the central hall were rearranged round the Mantapa. The plaster cast of Anantasayana was removed to the ladder case. The lamp cases were provided with a background of red cloth which now serves to show off the exhibits to great advantage.

Restoration.

The work on the Ratha exhibited in the northern gallery of the Museum has been going on since last year. An experienced workman deputed by the Panivagai Engineer was engaged in replacing all the "yali" figures. Besides the "yalis" other decorative designs were also made and fitted by him. The carved pieces from the Klangad temple car were next fitted on to the Ratha in their appropriate places. As some of them were not of suitable size for the topmost tier of the Ratha, fresh ones were made and fitted. Almost all the figures and decorative designs are now complete except for the fitting up of the wheels, and attention to a few minor details. In this state it would serve to show the visitor to the Museum a perfect example of Travancore craftsmanship.

New Guide.

With the transfer of the Natural History specimens to the Sankumukham Palace, the existing guide to the Museum based on the old arrangement was found to be inapplicable to the present collections. Dr. J. H. Cousins prepared therefore a new guide to the Art Museum. This is a short account of the Museum and serves to guide the average visitor through galleries and draw his attention to the more noteworthy of the objects. It is printed on art paper and is distributed free to visitors. Besides the guide to the museum, a small catalogue of the metal images is also available.

Natural History Museum.

The collection of natural history housed in the Sankumukham palace received unremitting attention and care. On account of the great humidity prevalent in the place and the difficulty of obtaining supplies due to war conditions, the best that was done by the staff was still inadequate. It is a struggle against odds because the brine charged air of the place spelling ruin to the specimens always remains as a serious menace.

The large collection of horns and heads was completely overhauled during the year. They are now laid out on the floor and will be set up on the walls as soon as facilities are available. Similarly the collection of effigies representing the various castes and tribes of Travancore was also overhauled, renovated and rearranged.

Yours faithfully,
R. VASUDEVA PODUVAL,
Officer in charge of Museums.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during 1120 M. E.

	Rs.	Ch.	C.
RECEIPTS	106	0	0
EXPENDITURE	14,487	0	0

APPENDIX B.

List of holidays for the Museum for 1120 M. E.

1 All Mondays.
2 Thiru Onam Day.
3 Sri Narayana Guru Swami Samadhi Day.
4 Birthday of H. H. the Maharaja.
5 Temple Entry Proclamation Day.
6 Opening day of War Exhibition.
7 Vishu.
8 Pallikkettu festival days and Victory Day.
9 Birthday of Princess.

APPENDIX C.

List of noteworthy additions to the Museum during 1120 M. E.

1 Two pieces of ancient embroidered cloth.
2 Gold plated ornaments—Vanki, Vasantayil Vala, Odyanam, Swastik vala and Atukkuvala.
3 Vishnu in Soapstone.
4 Bronze image of Kali.
5 Bronze image of Siva,
7 Swords,—Udaval, Sadha Udaval, Vettuval, Veechuval and Vadival.
7 Buddha standing image in stone.
8 Bronze image of Subramonia on peacock.